

THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET CHRONICLE

Week of August 20, 2012

Vol. 32, Issue 1

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PUC becoming hometown university

Melissa Pilipow
Staff Writer

With a year under his belt, PUC Chancellor Thomas Keon feels the campus community is making strides toward becoming the "hometown university" he envisioned.

Since being appointed chancellor on April 7, 2011, and officially beginning his duties on July 1, 2011, Keon has spent much of the first year getting acquainted with the campus community and the surrounding area.

"One of the things that I really like about the campus is that it's almost like an oasis," Keon said, describing how he feels entering campus from the neighboring residential areas. "All of a sudden, you come to campus, and there's a sense of being in almost a different world."

The chancellor's wife Nancy Keon is very dedicated to her husband's career, as well as to the campus community. Last spring, the Keons hosted an evening of dinner and conversation with members of the PUC SGA at the Kuiper House.

Aside from enjoying the campus atmosphere, over the past year Keon has come to enjoy several aspects of living in Northwest Indiana that remind him of growing up in Massachusetts. Keon said he enjoys the close proximity of the dune-laden coast of Lake Michigan, which he finds similar to the shores of Cape Cod, Mass. Another likeness Keon appreciates is the regional diversity.

"The part of Massachusetts that I grew up [in], there were a lot of ethnic centers geographically, and so that's one of the things that I like about Northwest Indiana. There's a lot of different ethnic areas," Keon said.

Also crucial during the first year, Keon said, were collaborative assessments he made with faculty members concerning PUC's strengths and weaknesses. These evaluations helped Keon shape revisions to the strategic plan originally set in place by PUC's former chancellor, Howard Cohen. He has also spent time over the past year, not only cultivating ideas and efforts to bolster each of the four goals in the plan,



Photo: Melissa Pilipow

but also nurturing his vision of PUC as a hometown university.

"The sense is that people who live in the area, when they're thinking about a university, they're thinking about their hometown university — Purdue Calumet," Keon said.

The basis for the chancellor's vision consists of PUC interacting and working with the surround-

ing community. Keon says that he has found PUC's student athletes to be exemplary models of his vision.

"Last year, their average GPA was 3.08, higher than the student body as a whole. Almost all of our student athletes are also very involved in volunteer projects in the community," Keon said.

Keon also added that he has been impressed with the engagement of the SGA on campus. Together, Keon and the SGA were able to re-establish December commencement, generate support for a state-of-the-art recreation and fitness facility, as well

See Chancellor page 4

PUC cafeteria receives facelift

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

Students wandering into the cafeteria in SUL this school year will be in for some changes as it has undergone a summer-long renovation.

Director of Procurement Phil Brown said there have not been any renovations done to the cafeteria since around the year 2000.

"The renovations this summer have been made to enhance the visitors experience and improve traffic flow," Brown said.

According to Academic Facilities Director Michelle Grant, one of the cash registers from the front of the cafeteria has been moved to help improve traffic. Grant said the reason for this is that the

register was too close to the self-serve soda fountain and crowding and collisions were happening between students in line to pay and in line for the fountain. Grant also said food serving lines would be repositioned and the "signage" would be made clearer.

"Upgrades to the cafeteria serving area will assist the visitor in making an informed selection from the variety of offerings available and then more efficiently move to the dining area," Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services Ken Johnston said.

There were also some repairs made in the cafeteria. Grant said there was some trouble with the laminate flooring, which has now been fixed.

There will also be a new, but familiar, color scheme in place.

"[We are going to] reinforce the Purdue colors [with a] black and gold color palette," Grant said.

Brown said the total estimated cost of the renovations, though not yet final, comes to about \$110,000, and the costs are shared about half and half between Chartwells and PUC.

"We are pleased to work with Chartwells to provide a pleasant and satisfying foodservice experience at Purdue Calumet," Johnston said.

Chartwells Food Service Director Diane Wisniewski could not be reached for comment at the time of print.

See Chartwells page 4



Photo: Morgan Walker

Sub Generation was moved and the entire cafeteria got new signs during the renovations this summer, according to Catering Director Connie Bell.

Fighting high prices at the bookstore

Rebecca Rossi
Staff Writer

Like milk and medicine at a gas station, with great convenience comes high prices. Such is the case with college textbooks. A campus bookstore has an irresistible draw to it. One simply walks in with a class schedule and out with the right books, albeit a much lighter wallet. The peace of mind a student gets from making purchases at their college bookstore is tremendous. It should be stressed that there are other ways to get the right books and at a much better price.

The first option is to go online to sites such as amazon.com, half.com, and chegg.com, where used and new textbooks can be purchased and sometimes even rented, often for a fraction of the bookstore cost.

"I bought from the bookstore my first semester, but will never do it again. I think freshmen buy there for fear of getting the wrong book. Always buy online," said sophomore Honors Program member and math major Megan McVicker.

To find the right books to purchase online, obtain the International Standard Book Number. According to the United States ISBN Agency website, an ISBN is 13 digits long and used to identify the title and publisher of a book

or book-like product. To find the ISBN, follow these 4 steps:

1. Go to www.purduecal.edu with a copy of your class schedule handy.

2. Type the word "bookstore" in the search box. Click on the first result.

3. Hover over the "Books" tab (on the top left hand side) and select "Textbooks and Course Materials."

4. Answer the list of questions the new page asks, starting with "Select your program." To answer the other questions such as the department of the class in question, the course and the section, simply refer to your class schedule.

Once all questions are answered, an ISBN will appear along with a list of prices for new, used and rentals. If no ISBN is listed, that either means the course has no required set of materials or none at this time.

Search the ISBN to find an array of sites that offer the book. Prices can be compared, and money is saved.

Adam Cooper, junior and leading member of DECA said, "In almost all cases, I can find lower prices online than at the bookstore and a much greater selection that makes price comparisons possible."

See Bookstore page 4

ADMINISTRATIVE

update

Look forward to being welcomed Thursday (8/23) into our 'community of scholars'

Welcome!

The start of a new academic year is always exciting, exhilarating, challenging and, perhaps, even a bit stressful. On college and university campuses, it also is a time for reflecting on what we in higher education refer to as the community of scholars.

Among the endearing characteristics of higher education is the collaboration of this "community" of students, faculty, administrators and staff to advance knowledge, learning and, in the process, an enlightened and enriched society.

Granted, for new students, a community of scholars working together to enlighten and enrich society may take a temporary back seat to the priority of the first, few challenging days of college classes, or to such logistical concerns as locating one's classes, obtaining a textbook that has been out of stock and getting adjusted to an environment you share with thousands, rather than hundreds (per high school) of others.

No worries

But by the second week, you should be settling in nicely and ready to examine more closely the **Purdue University Calumet community of scholars**.

You'll have a great opportunity to do so—up close and personal—this Thursday (8/23), from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Founders Plaza in the center of campus. That's when your university holds its sixth annual Student Convocation and Resource Fair. It is Purdue Calumet's way of welcoming new and continuing students to another year of learning and growing.

At precisely 11 a.m., following the sound of a trumpet, from all corners of campus, faculty and administrators attired in academic regalia will walk to Founders Plaza, which is located just north of the Student Union & Library. There, Chancellor Thomas Keon will deliver words of encouragement. An informal discussion will follow, featuring faculty and continuing students sharing university experiences.

Food, music & lots more!

Immediately following, you can visit a variety of food tables and partake of lunch on the lawn, enjoy some music, and check out the resource fair that will provide you with information about support and involvement opportunities on campus, and much, much more.

Perhaps most importantly, you'll be able to interact informally with faculty, staff and other students: our **community of scholars**. We expect thousands to attend!

By the way, returning students, there will be more food options and resources this year.

So plan to be welcomed—or re-welcomed, as it were—into the **Purdue University Calumet community of scholars** Thursday. A great way to begin a grand year!



What's Going On? A look around PUC...

First Responders Safety Training

Designed specifically to prepare first responders and public safety officers to respond to incidents involving advanced electric drive vehicles and their supporting infrastructure.

The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium's First Responder Safety Training features a suite of modern technology products and training for electric drive vehicles. Participants learn important information needed to safely respond to accidents involving these vehicles. These topics include key vehicle and fuel properties and characteristics, vehicle components, vehicle identification, and recommended first responder procedures. Participants will receive:

- * Participant manual
- * Quick reference guide
- * Mobile device app
- * Access to online training

Targeted toward firefighters, law enforcement personnel, paramedics, hazard response teams, vehicle retrieval personnel, emergency medical technicians, code officials, and construction permitting officers.

WHAT: First Responder Safety Training
LOCATION: Ivy Tech - 3100 Ivy Tech Dr. Valparaiso, IN

TIME: 8:00AM - 5:00PM CST

DATE: August 30, 2012

COST: Clean Cities Members - FREE *

Non-Members - \$175

To RSVP call or email Stephanie:

(219)644-3690 / ssmithSSCC@comcast.net

- *Clean Cities members are allowed one free seat per membership.
- *Seats are limited.

PRESS RELEASE

LIL'L MISS MANNERS & LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP

Risky behavior among teenagers continues to increase and especially among our girls according to many findings. Our children are not born to be responsible – they are taught to be responsible.

CBK Performing Arts Centre, Inc has been a strong advocate for them and to address some of the needs of our girls we are hosting a "Lil'l Miss Manners & Life Skills Workshop," Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at 6947 S Homan Avenue, Hammond. Ages 10 to 18.

Some of the pertinent topics are manners; character building, leadership skills, hygiene/grooming, smart dressing, money matters, communication skills, self-esteem, and so much more.

Professional facilitators on hand, valuable handouts distributed and refreshments served. Youth Ministries and organizations and parents please reserve their space by calling Ms. Blake-King at 219.256.1770. Cost \$7. Please visit our website at www.cbkartscentre.org. Please no jeans.

CBK Performing Arts Centre, Inc – An innovative concept of learning by using The Arts as the catalyst.

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at pucchronicle@gmail.com or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET CHRONICLE

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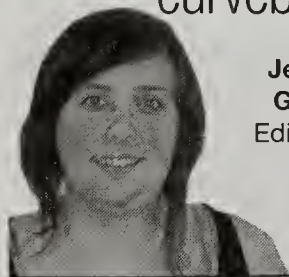
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Life is made of curveballs



Jessica Gerlich
Editor-in-Chief

I think I've finally learned one of the most important lessons anyone could ever learn. There will always be curveballs thrown in my direction. It's inevitable in life. That said, I have learned that I need to quit whining about how life is going to get better and know that something unexpected is always going to come up.

Sure, I have expectations for this year at The Chronicle and in my classes, but I don't expect things to work out the way I plan them. I would love to see The Chronicle thrive and to focus on recruiting new writers and editors. I want to have more advertising revenue than last year. I would love if we did not have people boycotting the paper at all this semester or protests going on daily.

However, I know that it won't work out exactly how I want. Already, I thought we were going to have an advisor this semester. Then, I thought I was going to be managing editor starting out and here I am as editor-in-chief. Curveballs.

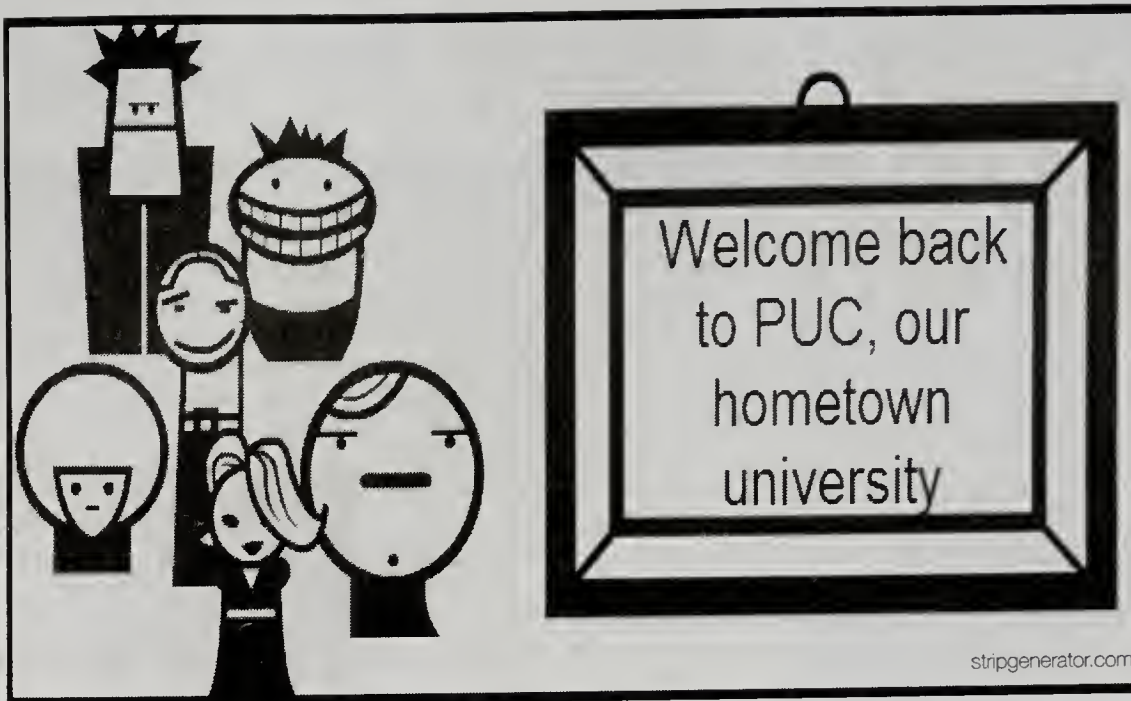
But I am going to try my hardest to do so and deal with the curveballs as they come.

I'm expecting to be able to handle the 18 credit hour load I have this semester. I would like to get A's and graduate (when I finally graduate) with a GPA as close to 4.0 as I can get. I'm okay with the fact that it might not work out that way, though. I might have to drop a class. I might not get perfect grades. But I am going to try my hardest to do so and deal with the curveballs as they come.

Just because things don't work out how I want them to does not mean they can't work out well. I have spent too much time in my short life waiting for things to go right. I'm ready to grab onto whatever life gives me and say "Here we go again!"

I think once we stop thinking that the world owes us something and that everything should meet our expectations perfectly, we may actually be able to be satisfied with our lives. I spent all of high school wanting to be a Spanish teacher. Obviously that is not where I am now, and I am better for it.

As we all start this next school year together, let's hope for the best. If things don't happen the way we think they will, let's take a ride and see where the magic carpet lands.



THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET CHRONICLE

Volume 32, Issue 1
Fall 2012

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Brandon Hayes, News Editor
Michelle Mullins, Entertainment Editor
Bill Koester, Sports Editor
Morgan Walker, Photo Editor
Sammy Gonzales, Production Manager
Dante Vidal Siguero, Business Manager

Freshmen 101: Always read the fine print

We at The Chronicle would like to welcome incoming freshmen to PUC with a few things we would have liked to know when we first arrived at campus.

1. When receiving financial aid of any kind, it is imperative to know the rules and stipulations. Read through the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (which can be found at <http://webs.purduecal.edu/ofasa/files/SAPPOLICY.pdf>). Read it twice. Know what it means. Highlights include that if you drop too many classes you could lose your financial aid eligibility, and if your GPA gets too low you may lose eligibility as well. It may even be a good idea to meet with someone in the financial aid department to discuss. Just don't pick the first week of school to meet with them—they will be swamped over there.

2. It is important to utilize academic advisors and work with them, but do not rely on them to do everything for you. Just like everything else in college, research on your own as well as listening to what professors and advisors have to say. Advisors can help with what is needed for a program and scheduling, but it is the student's job to make sure he or she is getting all they need out of a program and are on the right track. Advisors make mistakes, too.

3. Know your resources. The library and its website will be your best friends here. This might seem like an obvious bit of advice, but it's a lot easier to find scholarly journals for research and paper-writing purposes if you know where to look. Also in the resources category are the Writing Center in CLO 263, where they will read through papers and help work on writing skills, and the Academic Resource Center in Gyte 102, which offers

free tutoring. Don't be afraid to say you need help once in a while! It's here for you. The Counseling Center in Gyte 005 is a perfect place to go when you need to talk to someone (and it is free). The Student Health Services Center located in Gyte Annex 034 offers treatment for non-emergencies.

4. Lastly, get involved in student organizations. The Chronicle, the SGA, international and multicultural student groups around campus, fraternities and sororities. Your student email account will be full of announcements for call-out meetings for organizations and parties or get-togethers. Even for those who aren't living on campus, these are great ways to meet people, build resumes and figure out what it is that you really want to do in life after college.

COMMENTS?

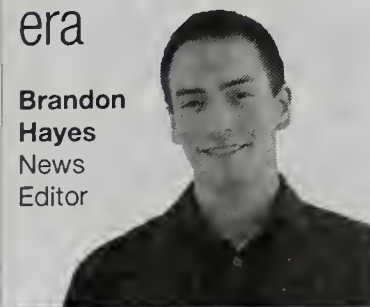
Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writer's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication. All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

To the end of an era

Brandon Hayes
News Editor



To the sound of Led Zeppelin's "Ramble On," my time here at The Chronicle comes to an end, and I will certainly miss working here. It has been an interesting place to work, never proving to disappoint, but the time has come to be gone.

At times it was very stressful, but nevertheless worth every second. The experiences and knowledge I gained from writing, interviewing and working with a great group of people will remain for a lifetime.

The Chronicle has been a part of my life before I was even a student here at PUC. A good friend of mine began writing for the paper a few years back and eventually became Editor-in-Chief. I would often visit the office during production and tag along on writing assignments. I saw firsthand how stressful it could be, but also, how beneficial it can be toward education. I can honestly say I've learned more through this job than in any college class I've taken.

I also learned many important life lessons.

When I began working here after being out of work, I had no idea the places this job would take me or the people I would get to meet. I went to Seattle, Wash. for a college media convention, attended an Occupy Chicago rally, covered the craziness behind the Eisenstein student/professor outrage (which seems to have lost its fire), made some great friends, consumed a ton of caffeine and lost a lot of sleep too.

I also learned many important life lessons. As I write this last column, I leave the Chronicle with one hope: to see it survive. Between the hardships of budget-crunching and the seemingly paperless future of newspapers, there is definitely a challenge ahead. The only way this place has a future is for more students to take an interest in The Chronicle. It is sad to say, but each year more college campuses are either cutting budgets or having to close up shop altogether. PUC has already begun that process by reducing the papers' annual funding, namely by cutting the advisor position.

I wish my former co-workers good luck in succeeding in their futures, and I hope to see The Chronicle survive the next decade (after all, this is The Chronicle's "hometown"). It will be weird not spending my Sundays at the office or writing three articles a week, however, I am ready for a change of pace and the next challenge ahead.

"Leaves are fallin' all around, time I was on my way. Thanks to you, I'm much obliged for such a pleasant stay."

Readers can contact Brandon at chronicle_newseditor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

Readers can contact Jessica at jingerlich@gmail.com or (219) 989-2547.

PUC receives \$1,457,028.08 in donations in 2011

Lakieta King
Chronicle Correspondent

In 2011, the total amount of donations PUC received for the fiscal year was \$1,457,028.08. According to Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations Diana Virjevich, PUC is able to receive donations from individuals, alumni, corporations and foundations.

Donations can be made to different areas such as scholarship funds, departments (English, Math, Accounting, et cetera), schools (Education, Management, Technology, EMS, LASS and Nursing), programs and athletics. Alumni can also donate to their school or department given that most departments have scholarships.

The donations to PUC are broken down in this manner: 755 alumni donors gave a total of \$270,008.35, 84 corporate direct donors gave a total of \$626,452.79, 19 corporate matching donors gave a total of \$8,410.00, 152 friend donors gave a total of \$143,681.19, and 28 organizations gave a total of \$408,475.75. Virjevich works specifically with alumni, solicited a couple times a year via mail, emails and telephone calls. The Office of Advancement has a director who solicits corporations and foundations.

"Private giving has become even more important due to state funding cuts. It enables us to provide more scholarships for students and campus resources," Virjevich said.

Chancellor

continued from page 1

as reevaluate ways to improve campus life through student affairs. Former SGA President Jessie Martin, who was a member of the Chancellor Search Committee and worked extensively with Keon, said that Keon's commitment made his job more enjoyable.

"From the very beginning, Chancellor Keon has been very receptive to the SGA and our ideas. I'm sure he would like nothing more than to see SGA continue to grow, develop and become an even greater force on campus that can channel the voice of the student body," Martin said.

Other projects Keon has been committed to in the past year include securing outside funds to build various outdoor athletic fields in Hammond's Dowling Park, as well as looking into building a commercialization center for the campus.

"A commercialization center is a place where faculty, students and staff that think they have an idea that could be turned into a business could go and get help and get space to work on the project," Keon said.

While continuing to work on his current endeavors, Keon

hopes to see the campus community continually evolve.

"I'm hoping that in the next year, we see some new projects developing and a new and exciting atmosphere being created," Keon said.



Photo: Melissa Pillipow

Office of the Chancellor, Lawshe Hall

Chartwells

continued from page 1



Photo: Morgan Walker

A cash register was moved to avoid crowding near the soda station during the renovations of the cafeteria this summer.

Bookstore

continued from page 1

The other option is to borrow and trade with friends, as most college students can empathize with one another over the cost of books and supplies. This usually

works only if the other person is already done with that particular course and has no intention of selling the book back to the bookstore.

SAVE THE DATE

STUDENT FOOD CONVOCATION FUN!

on 8.23.12 SPIRIT

PURDUE
CALUMET

11:00 AM-2:00 PM IN FOUNDERS PLAZA

KICK OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH **FUN, FOOD AND GIVEAWAYS** WHILE EXPLORING ALL THAT **PURDUE CALUMET** HAS TO OFFER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
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1/3-mile north of Interstate 80/94, three blocks east of Indianapolis Blvd. to campus and south at the traffic light into the south parking lot.

The fall of the Chicago Comic Con

Brian Lynch
Entertainment Writer

For several years, the Chicago Comic Con (formerly Wizard World Chicago) was the undisputed king of Midwest region comic conventions. Fans and professionals alike held the convention in high regard, and year after year it never failed to impress.

Unfortunately, several missteps and changes to the Chicago Comic Con, which ran from Au-

gust 9-12, have turned the show into a shell of its former self.

Walking the show floor, it was hard to deny the annual turnout was considerably smaller than previous years. Even Saturday, which is traditionally the busiest day of the show, seemed to draw fewer visitors than ever before. This could be due to the dramatically increased ticket prices (\$80 for a 3-day pass as opposed to last year's \$50) and the continued absence of comic publishers such as Marvel and DC. Attendance

was by no means a failure, but the decrease in turnout was easily noticeable.

The layout of the convention was altered this year, placing autograph signings with celebrities in the center of the show floor. This led to severe bottle-necking in several areas of the convention center, while the outlying areas ended up resembling a ghost town. To their credit, the aisles

See Comic page 6



The Star Trek themed band "Five Year Mission" entertain fans entering the Chicago Comic Con.

Photo: Brian Lynch

Fleetwood Mac gets the indie rock treatment



Photo: Gregory Harris, shorefire.com

Karen Elson's sings "Gold Dust Woman" on "Just Tell Me That You Want Me: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac."

Jessica Gerlich
Editor-in-Chief

After 45 years of music-making and 17 studio albums, the possibilities offered for a Fleetwood Mac tribute are almost endless. The latest, "Just Tell Me That You Want Me: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac," produced by Randall Poster and Geyla Robb and released August 14, starts out strong with bone-chilling renditions and ends on a much more interpretative note with electronic-sounding explorations. The indie rock art-

ists involved in this collaboration take their own liberties with each track, and the product is mostly beautiful.

Lee Ranaldo of Sonic Youth and J Mascis set the stage for the first half of the album with a drawn-out and heartfelt take on the instrumental "Albatross," which begins with an ambience-like feel and slowly moves into the well-known tune. This is immediately followed with Antony Hegarty's (Antony and the John-

See Fleetwood page 6

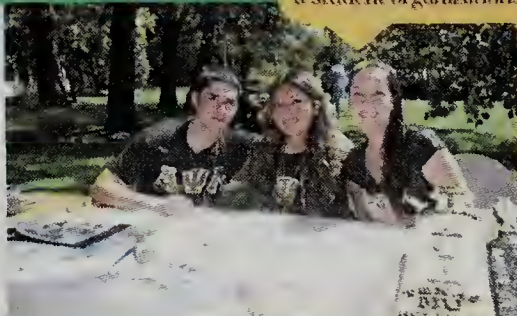
Office of Student Activities
www.purduecal.edu/studentactivities

Student Organization Recruitment Fair

Aug. 20-22
10am-3pm
SUL West Lawn

Sponsored by
Student Activities

Stop by to connect with students that share your interests and sign up for a student organization.



Student Activities and New Student Orientation

WELCOME BACK PICNIC



Tuesday, Sept. 4
11am - 2pm
Founders Plaza
PUC Student ID Required
DJ Music & Free Food

Need a checking or savings account?



Purdue University Calumet
Bank Fair

Tuesday, Aug. 28
10am - 6pm
CLO Concourse

Tunes @ Noon - Ken Bier

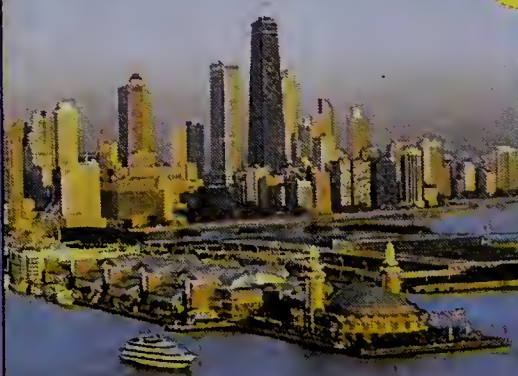


Thurs. Sept. 6
11am-1:30pm
Oaken Arbor Cafe, SUL

Plays a variety of music—including rock, classical, blues, jazz, and contemporary

Sponsored by Student Activities

Saturday, Sept. 15
10:30am - 5pm



Student Activities presents

\$35 STUDENT CRUISE
On Lake Michigan and
the Chicago River

Includes bus ride to/from Navy Pier;
3-hour cruise on a private yacht
reserved only for PUC; and lunch.

Register in person Aug. 22 or Sept. 11
in SUL-0443. PUC Student ID required.

No credit cards. Students may register 1 non-
student guest starting Sept. 6. Questions? Call
989-2369.

Student Activities Presents

Outdoor Movie
"Footloose"
Thursday, Sept. 6

Begins at dusk
Outside SUL
Free



A dirty and funny ‘Campaign’

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

Since this is an election year, it is impossible not to hear about politics in the media. It is safe to say that most voters, regardless of who they will vote for, are sick of it at this point. Too bad real campaigns are not as fun or wacky as the one in the new comedy “The Campaign.”

In the film, Will Ferrell (“Step Brothers”) plays Cam Brady, a democratic congressman from rural North Carolina. Brady is a career politician who cares little for doing well, staying in politics only in hopes of one day attaining higher office. Because he says all the right things, he is popular enough to run unopposed for re-election.

That is, until a sex scandal causes him to drop in the polls. Billionaire industrialists the Motch brothers, Dan Aykroyd (“Ghostbusters”) and John Lithgow (“3rd Rock from the Sun”), seize this opportunity by convincing dim-witted local Marty Huggins, Zach Galifianakis (“The Hangover”), to run as a Republican who will do what the brothers tell him. So, with only weeks until

election day, the film becomes a game of one-upmanship, as the two go to any lengths to woo voters and sink to new lows in attacking each other.

Many events happening on the campaign trail in the movie are more outrageous than real life (the baby punch, alluded to in the trailers but shown in glorious slow motion onscreen, is so horribly hysterical). But, while the focus of the film is humor, there is some subtle satire on elections in the United States.

The film touches on the phoniness of career politicians and their families, the influence of corporate powers in elections, and how any real message or desire to do good gets lost in showmanship and petty issues on the campaign trail. Most poignant of all are real cable news personalities like Wolf Blitzer and Chris Matthews breaking down everything Brady and Huggins do likes it is just a typical part of the campaign cycle. This raises an interesting question: What must a politician do for the media to objectively call him or her out as a clown instead of analyzing him or her from a political standpoint?

The balance tips towards ridiculousness instead of satire not



Photo: Warners Bro. Pictures

Zach Galifianakis (left) and Will Ferrell (right) get rowdy on the campaign trail in their newest film “The Campaign.”

quite halfway through, and the ending is pure Hollywood happy ending schmaltz. That is okay, however, because the film is so well cast and outrageously funny.

Ferrell plays it mean, almost villainous, as a political animal not afraid to get down and dirty for votes. He really should play the bad guy more often because he is even funnier than when he plays a lovable hero. Galifianakis

gets some good laughs as a lovable rube.

The whole supporting cast is strong as well, featuring Aykroyd and Lithgow hamming it up as sociopathic capitalists, Jason Sudeikis (“Horrible Bosses”) as Brady’s longtime campaign manager, Dylan McDermott as a dark political operative running the Huggins campaign, and especially Katherine LaNasa (“Two and

a Half Men”) and Sarah Baker (“Sweet Home Alabama”) as the candidates’ wives, who both become estranged for different reasons.

“The Campaign” is a little more on the level of “Old School” than “The Daily Show,” but it is still one of the funniest movies ever made about politics.

The Campaign receives 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Comic

continued from page 5



Photo: Brian Lynch

Characters from the Kingdom Hearts games were on hand to greet fans at the Chicago Comic Con.

were wider than previous years to help people navigate the show.

All missteps aside, there was still plenty to see and do at the convention. Legendary comic creator Stan Lee and professional wrestlers CM Punk and John Cena drew massive crowds to the signing areas, and fans were able to meet celebrities such as Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy in the “Harry Potter” film series), Bruce Campbell (“Evil Dead”) and the cast of “The Boondock Saints.”

The convention also gave local talent a chance to be noticed. The Chicago division of the Ghostbusters was on hand to greet fans and pose for photo-

graphs in full uniform. Also in attendance was local nerd-themed burlesque troupe Gorilla Tango Burlesque. The group performs tongue-in-cheek shows with a heavy focus on pop culture and video games, such as the upcoming “A Nude Hope: A Star Wars Burlesque.”

While the convention was far from an outright failure, it is still just a shadow of its former greatness. With increased competition from other shows, including the immensely popular newcomer C2E2 (Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo), the Chicago Comic Con is clearly on the decline.

Fleetwood

continued from page 5

sons) version of “Landslide.” Hegarty’s timid yet earnest tone evokes a deep feeling of vulnerability and intimacy that rings true for the entire album. Other highlights include a version of bluesy “Oh Well” stripped raw by Billy Gibbons and Co and an eerie-sounding “Silver Springs” by Lykke Li.

As the album progresses, it becomes more and more experimental. Gardens and Villa put together a version of “Gypsy” that is easily recognizable, yet completely different from Stevie Nicks’s original song. It begins with a woodwind instrument

and continues into an electronic-sounding tune.

Consequently, the last two tracks, Crystal Ark’s “Tusk” and MGMT’s nine-minute “Future Games,” are the most experimental on the album, and it shows. “Tusk” sounds a bit jumbled at times, and it is hard to listen past the four-minute mark. During “Future Games,” on the other hand, MGMT uses some dissonant tones in places that do not sit well on the ears. Aside from those moments, the band pulls it off.

“Just Tell Me That You Want Me,” which takes its title from a line of “Tusk,” is full of artists taking risks with music that

has stood the test of time, and this works wonders. The sheer number of singers on the album is incredible. Producer Poster, a lifelong lover of Fleetwood Mac, succeeds in telling a story through the arrangement of these songs. This is a must-listen for Fleetwood Mac fans and fans of indie rock bands alike.

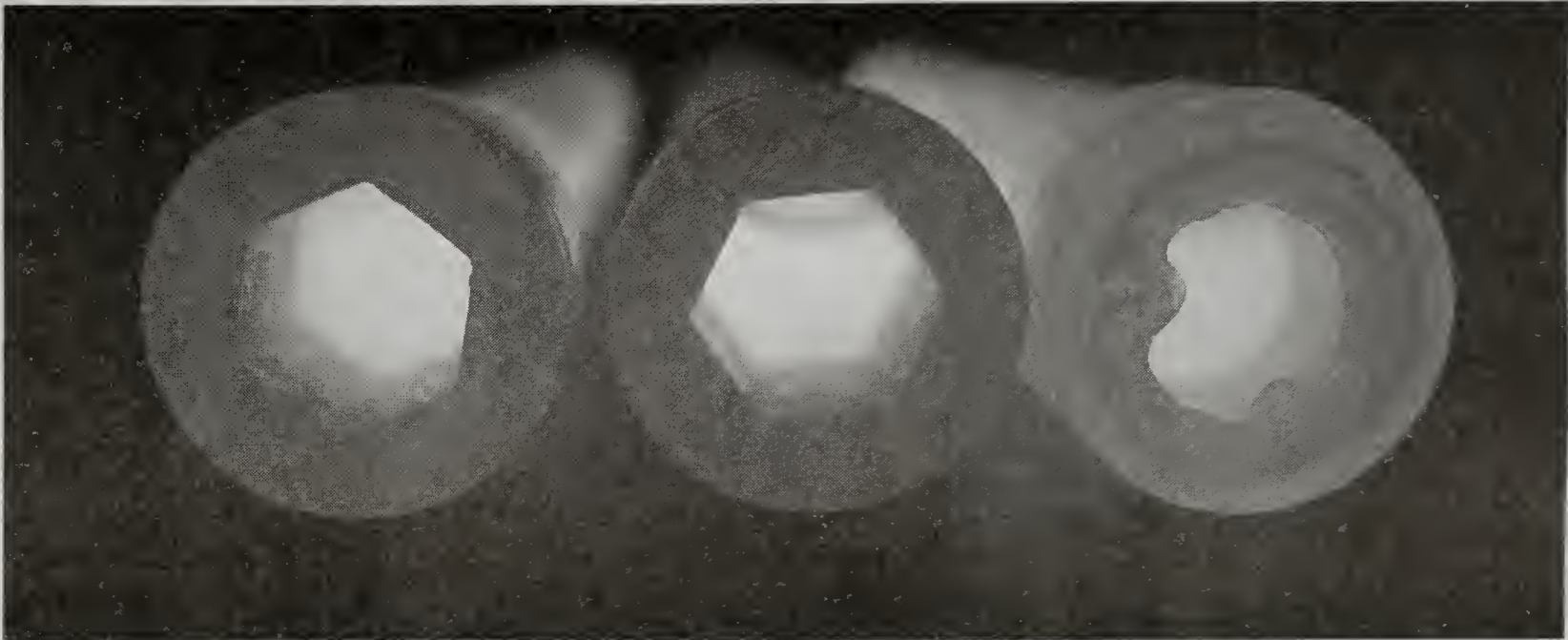
Find this article on pucchronicle.com to hear an audio stream of The New Pornographers’ version of “Think About Me.”

“Just Tell Me That You Want Me: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac” receives 4 out of 5 stars.

SUDOKU

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Club PUC: Global Getdown



Photos: Morgan Walker

Students from all walks of life came out to “get down” to music from around the world during the blacklight party on the back patio of the University Village Phase II on Friday, Aug. 17. DJ Paul Segal passed out glow sticks and PUC provided light refreshments for students that came out.



Men's soccer set for September debut

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

When building an athletic program from scratch, there are bound to be a few bumps in the road. That does not seem to be the case for the PUC men's soccer team, though.

Since he was introduced as leader of the young program in February, Head Coach James Drzewiecki has hit the ground running in recruiting. His efforts have brought to PUC not only more local recruits, but some from around the country. He has even recruited a few players from countries such as Brazil, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.

Attracting players from overseas might come as a surprise for a new program at a small school such as PUC. However, according to Drzewiecki, it was not as hard as it seemed, as many were already enrolled at the school.

"A lot of all over the world was already on campus," he said.

An open tryout on campus attracted over 80 students. Of those, only a select few made the team.

"The right player's the right player," Drzewiecki said. "[But] you also try to figure out who's really dedicated enough to put up with the grind of the season and school."

The team has amassed a total of 24 players for the season. The players all agree that their team

chemistry has been good leading up to the season.

"Everyone's been very friendly (in practice)," freshman Juan Lopez said.

Lopez, a native of Houston, Texas, played a few games for the MLS' Houston Dynamo, and is highly enthusiastic about his team's chances.

"We got good potential," he said. "I think people will be surprised. I hope we go undefeated."

Undefeated is a longshot for any team, but many of Lopez's teammates agree.

"We showed a lot of promise (in the offseason)," goalkeeper and junior Tom Spillman of Hyrum, Utah, said. "I feel optimistic."

"I see good things," freshman defender Dominic Balderas said.

Balderas, who played for the Indiana Magic club team and Chicago Magic Soccer Academy, also described how the team is looking beyond their first season, and their personal goals.

"I just want to become a better player," he said. "I think all of us want to improve as players."

The men play their first match of the season on Sept. 1 at Goshen, and play their first home match against Concordia on Sept. 7. Drzewiecki shares his team's confidence that they will make PUC's debut on the pitch a good one.

"This is a good team," he said. "They're going to do well for themselves."



Photo: Bill Koester

The PUC men's soccer players conduct passing drills during practice in preparation for their debut season.

Thoughts on the Olympics



Bill Koester
Sports Editor

I may be in the minority, but I hope this is the last time NBA players are eligible for the Olympics.

There's the risk that they get injured or that the games will affect their play during the grind of the regular season, but the play that it really hurts is that in the Olympics.

Though the gold medal game was close and exciting, much of the tournament was a farce. The U.S. team, which was essentially an NBA All-Star team, routinely beat teams by dozens of points. The worst was against Nigeria, where the team's margin of victory was higher than their opponent's total score (156-73 was the final).

USA Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski denied that the

team ran up the score, pointing out that he benched most of the starters and claiming all their shot attempts just went in. I actually believe him because much of the teams they creamed would never be on the same court as them if not for the Olympics.

The legendary Dream Team of 1992 was less about competition than it was about promoting NBA basketball on a global scale. Now, 20 years later, the NBA has players from all over the world, so they don't need to promote its brand by sending their players to the Olympics.

All it does is make the competition unexciting because it's obvious who will win. It's like if a little league team played against the New York Yankees. It's time that the game goes back to amateurs, so that the competition is actually exciting to watch.

It's not like the U.S. would lose too much of an advantage because many of our college players are as good as pros anyway.

*Though all the track and field talk focused on Usain Bolt, I was happy to see Tyson Gay finally win a medal.

Gay took three golds in the 2007 World Championships and holds several American records. He was expected to do as well for the U.S. in Beijing in 2008, but a hamstring injury hindered his performance, and he was eliminated early in the 100 m semifinals. In London this year, he missed a medal by a hundredth of a second in the 100 m final.

He didn't leave London empty handed, though, as he was part of the U.S. team that took Silver in the 4x100 relay. It's too bad injuries prevented him from more, but at least he has on piece of Olympic hardware under his belt.

*Now that Michael Phelps is done swimming professionally, he should be cast as Aquaman in the Justice League movie (if they ever get around to making it, that is). He can't have a movie career any worse than Shaq.



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